

From: [Jimmy Franco](#)
To: [HSSframework](#)
Subject: Inclusion of Mexican-American history
Date: Thursday, April 30, 2015 9:01:14 PM

To: History/Social science Committee

From: Jimmy Franco

I am a retired educator who taught history and social studies for over thirty years. My concern is that during this period of time there has always been a lack of inclusion for Mexican-American history within the state curriculum along with scant textbook information and supportive materials. This ongoing situation essentially ignores the long and important history of Mexican-Americans within California and in effect denies the students of our state the opportunity to learn the true historical experience and contributions made by all of our ethnic groups. My rationale for the inclusion of Mexican-American/Chicano history within your proposed draft framework on history/ social science is that the liquidation of minority history objectively reinforces an ideological foundation of white supremacy. For example, the present proponents of the doctrine of "American exceptionalism" claim that teaching about past events such as slavery, indentured servitude, the US conquest of Native-American, Mexican, Puerto Rican and Hawaiian territories, white supremacy and segregation, comprise a negative 'revision' of US history and should only be mentioned slightly within our classrooms. In their view, the majority of American history should primarily emphasize the greatness of the US in human history led by a unique white majority. The ignoring of a thorough and all-sided study of past events in California will ultimately prevent our students from understanding many of the deeply ingrained economic and social problems that still persist within our society. Such a flawed and subjective historical approach and interpretation of history will obstruct and undermine the skills of students to analyze existing issues and problems within our society and weaken their ability and future role in resolving them. Therefore, I urge you to consider within the proposed framework the inclusion of Mexican-American history, a history dating back to the seventeenth century that is closely interwoven with and an integral part of the development and progress of our state of California.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Franco

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